



cityNEWS



◦ GOLDEN VALLEY'S 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Every 10 years the City works with the community to update the plan that crafts Golden Valley's future step by step.

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PUBLIC ART IN YOUR COMMUNITY

A new City program provides a mechanism for including art in public buildings.

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Council Discusses Tax Levy And Budget

The City Council will discuss the 2018 proposed tax levy and the 2018-2019 General Fund Budget at the Sept 12 Council/Manager meeting for consideration at the Sept 19 City Council meeting. If approved Sept 19, this levy will be used for the proposed property tax statements that will be mailed in November and cannot be increased but can only be decreased.

The City Council begins the budget process early each year with workshops to discuss goals. Budget review starts in July and continues until Council adopts the final levy Dec 5. Minnesota law requires cities to adopt a budget and levy annually. Golden Valley prepares a biennial budget to help with upcoming financial needs and forecasts, including General Fund expenditures and revenues and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks, Buildings, and Equipment.

Property Values

Taxable market values overall increased 6.14 percent. The median home value increased 11.85 percent after the Homestead Market Value Credit, from \$248,340 to 277,770.

General Fund Budget

The General Fund Budget covers police; fire and inspections; street, park, and building maintenance; engineering; administration; City Council and manager; and parks and recreation.

In order for the City to maintain its newly reconstructed streets, it needs to fund an overlay maintenance program. The 2018 budget includes \$400,000 to help fund the future overlay program. This amount will need to go to \$500,000 in future years,

along with future assessments to fund the infrastructure program.

Transfers increased by \$50,000 to the Park Improvement Fund and the Building Fund. The Park Improvement Fund finances improvements to the parks, such as playground equipment and parking lot repairs. The Building Fund finances improvements to the 10 City buildings and seven park shelters.

The City participates in several cost-saving strategies, such as a State consortium to buy fuel, equipment, and vehicles; membership in a multi-city computer consortium; cooperative sharing of equipment and services with other cities; and joint dispatching services with Hennepin County.

Debt Levy

The Debt Levy covers payments on already-issued bonds for the Pavement Management Program (PMP), vehicles and equipment, and tax abatement. For 2018, the debt levy decreased as the City paid off debt issued in 2002. Council will annually review the scheduled improvements for each remaining PMP geographic area and their impact on the additional levies for bonded debt. The Council will also refinance debt issues when those opportunities exist.

After the City Council discussion on Sept 12, the 2018-2019 proposed General Fund Budget will be available online at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget.

Questions about the budget or your proposed property tax? Contact City Finance Director Sue Virnig at 763-593-8010 or svirnig@goldenvalleymn. 


New Homeowners: File For Homestead By Dec 15

If you purchased a home in Golden Valley this year, you have until Dec 15, 2017 to file for homestead status to be eligible for the state's property tax programs.

To be eligible, you must be a Minnesota resident who owns and occupies the property as your primary residence by Dec 1.

State law also provides for the homestead classification to be extended to properties that are occupied by a qualifying relative of the owner. Special application is required and must be made in person by the owners and relative occupying the property. For more information on the relative homestead classification, contact the City at 763-593-8020.

Apply online at www.hennepin.us/homestead. Your application will be sent to the appropriate homestead office. For assistance, email ao.homestead@hennepin.us or call 612-348-3046.

You may also apply in person or by mail. For details, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/budget/taxes/homestead.php. 

CITY ELECTION IS NOV 7

For the Nov 7 local general election, you may only vote in person at your assigned polling place or vote absentee ahead of time. Polling places are listed on page 16.

Absentee Voting Starts Sept 22

Absentee voting means voting by mail or in person before Election Day instead of at the polling place. Absentee ballots are available 46 days before an election. Under a 2014 state law change, voters no longer have to state a specified reason in order to receive and cast an absentee ballot.

You will need to fill out an application to vote absentee.

IN PERSON—Vote at Golden Valley City Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm). Extended absentee voting hours are available on the Saturday and Monday before the election (Nov 4, 10 am–3 pm, and Nov 6 until 5 pm).

DIRECT BALLOT—Due to state law change, in-person absentee voters may place their ballot directly into the ballot tabulator at City Hall Oct 31–Nov 6. Absentee ballots completed before Oct 31 will be counted at the county before the election.

BY MAIL—Send your completed absentee ballot application to Hennepin County Elections by mail (Hennepin County Elections - PSL 012 Government Center, 300 6th St S, Minneapolis, MN 55487), fax (612-348-2151), or email (hc.vote@hennepin.us). Upon receipt of an application, Hennepin County will mail the ballot materials.

Questions? Call the City at 763-593-8000. Voting and election information is available at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections.

To check if you're already registered to vote, go to www.mnvotes.org.

Voter Registration

You will need to register if you have never registered to vote, changed your name, moved to a different address (even if only your apartment number has changed), or have not voted in four years. You may register on Election Day at your polling place with required information to prove your residency. Visit www.mnvotes.org or the Golden Valley website (www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections/voting.php) for a list of the requirements for Election Day registration.

Get more information about voting and elections at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections. Questions? Contact City Clerk Kris Luedke at 763-593-8012.

Golden Valley Reads “The Latehomecomer”

Author Reading Set For Sept 18 At Perpich

Golden Valley Reads, a joint venture between the City of Golden Valley and Golden Valley Library, encourages residents to read one book together each year. This year's book is “The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir,” by award-winning Hmong-American writer Kao Kalia Yang. An author reading event is scheduled for 6:30 pm Mon, Sept 18, at Perpich Center for Arts Education, 6125 Olson

Memorial Hwy, Golden Valley. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

“The Latehomecomer” is the only book to have garnered two Minnesota book awards in one year, winning Creative Nonfiction Writing and Readers' Choice. It is a story of a refugee family and a tribute to the woman who kept them together. The author's family arrived in



the United States in 1987, and the book chronicles 20 years of their story while drawing on geopolitical history, Hmong folklore, and culture.

To learn more about Golden Valley Reads and upcoming events, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/goldenvalleymn-reads.

Oct 28 Is First Leaf Drop-Off Day

Golden Valley's Fall Leaf Drop-Off provides residents a place to dispose of their leaves at no charge during three late-fall weekends (see box below).

The drop-off site will be at Brookview Park, south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave. During drop-off days, Brookview Parkway becomes a one-way road. All traffic must enter the site from Winnetka Ave N and exit on Western Ave. City personnel will direct vehicles to drop-off points, where residents will unload or de-bag leaves.

Guidelines

- Participants must provide proof of Golden Valley residency (Minnesota driver's license, ID, utility bill, or proof of identity and address).
- Residents must untie leaf bags, de-bag their leaves at the site, and take the bags home for reuse or disposal. No brush or garden waste will be accepted.
- For fast unloading and to conserve your bags, leave them untied. A parking area will be provided for residents to untie their bags before getting in line.
- Residents hauling loose leaves must unload their leaves at the site. (Tip: If you're hauling loose leaves, line the trailer or truck bed with a tarp before loading the leaves. To unload, lift

the corners of the tarp and dump the leaves into the drop-off area.)

If you miss the Leaf Drop-Off, contact your garbage hauler for its policies and rates or check the Yellow Pages or online for names of commercial yard waste processing sites. The Maple Grove Yard Waste Site (14796 101st Ave N) accepts leaves, brush, and grass for a fee. For more information, contact the Yard Waste Site directly at 763-420-8971 or visit www.mgyardwaste.com.

If you have questions about yard waste, call Public Works at 763-593-8030. 🐾



2017 Fall Leaf Drop-Off

SAT, OCT 28 8 am–1 pm	SAT, NOV 4 8 am–1 pm
FRI, NOV 3 8 am–3 pm	SAT, NOV 11 7 am–1 pm

@ Brookview Park
(south of Hwy 55 at Winnetka Ave, enter from Winnetka Ave)

Raking Blitz Helps Elders With Fall Yard Work

This fall, give back to your community while helping a senior citizen remain independent in their home by volunteering to rake leaves through the Senior Community Services HOME Program, a nonprofit organization serving elders and caregivers statewide.

Volunteers are needed to rake, bag leaves, and take them to the curb. Residents must provide recyclable/compostable leaf bags and arrange for disposal. Exact location depends upon where the senior citizen resides.

Need help raking? Contact HOME at 952-746-4046 or home@seniorcommunity.org. Raking dates and times will be arranged with the individual homeowners based on volunteer availability.

To volunteer: Groups and individuals are welcome. Choose the date(s) and time(s), starting mid-October (depending on weather) until the snow stays. Contact the HOME volunteer coordinator at 952-767-7894 or scsvolunteer@seniorcommunity.org to schedule. Students must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers should dress for the weather and bring gloves, rakes, and any other equipment needed. 🐾

Golden Valley Recycles

GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 25
New Year's	Sat, Jan 6, 2018

Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 9
Christmas	Sat, Dec 30



To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

DUMP YOUR JUNK ON MIGHTY TIDY DAY

Mighty Tidy Day. A time to purge your property of unneeded stuff and dispose of it in an environmentally safe manner.

Get rid of mattresses, sofas, broken bicycles, tires, old appliances, computers, televisions, and more at the 13th annual **Mighty Tidy Day Sat, Oct 7, 8 am to 1 pm, at Brookview Park. No hazardous waste (motor oil, asbestos, cleaning solvents, pool chemicals, concrete, etc) is accepted.**

Enter Brookview Parkway from Winnetka Ave N (no entrance will be allowed from Western Ave). Proof of residency will be required at the entrance. Workers will collect the appropriate fee by cash or check and direct you to the right lot (see box below for list of items and fees).

Paper Shredding

Safe and secure destruction of personal documents is one of the best ways to combat identity theft. Bring papers loose in a paper bag (boxes will be returned to you). Staples and paper clips are OK. No binders or plastic material (computer disks, CDs, etc) will be accepted. Available for residents only and not businesses or other commercial enterprises.

Why Participate?


Aside from the benefits of recycling materials instead of landfilling them, some of these materials contain toxins that threaten public health and the environment, so proper disposal is important. During the 2016 Mighty Tidy Day, the City collected

60 mattresses and 131 appliances, shredded 6,976 lbs of paper, filled four Republic garbage trucks, and filled the Bridging truck with donations.

A Note About Donations

In past years, Mighty Tidy Day offered opportunities to donate gently used furniture and household items to Bridging. This non-profit organization provides people transitioning out of homelessness and poverty with a one-time gift of quality goods to stabilize and improve lives while effectively using community resources.

Due to logistical issues, Bridging is unable to participate this year but still needs your donations. A detailed list of needed items is available at www.bridging.org. Donations are tax-deductible at the fair market value of each item.

For more donation options in the area, check out the “Donate Your Stuff” handout that will be distributed by Mighty Tidy Day staff at the event. 

If you have questions about *Mighty Tidy Day*, call the City at 763-593-8030. For updates, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recycling/mightytidyday. You can also sign up to receive recycling email updates (see bottom of page 4).

MIGHTY TIDY DAY

DISPOSAL COSTS

Appliances

- If one typical person can carry it (microwave, dehumidifier, mini-refrigerator): \$10/each
- Other (dishwasher, dryer, freezer, range/stove, refrigerator, washing machine, water heater): \$20/each

Batteries: Free

Electronics/Computers

- Non-Television: \$5/each
- Peripherals (anything that attaches to electronic devices but is not a power source): \$1/each
- Computer Monitors/TVs
 - CRT (old TV): \$15/each
 - Flat Panel: \$10/each

Fluorescent Bulbs

- CFL (household): \$1/each
- 4-foot long or less: \$1/each
- Longer than 4 feet: \$2/each
- U-bent: \$2/each
- HID lamps: \$5/each

Miscellaneous Items

- Box Spring/Chair: \$15
- Mattress/Couch: \$20
- Misc (trash, construction debris, etc): \$20/cubic yard, \$10/half cubic yard (no concrete/cement, hazardous materials)

Paper Shredding: \$1/paper bag or banker's box

Scrap Metal

- Clean metal: Free
- Other (bikes, etc): \$5/each (no exercise bikes or treadmills)

Tires

- With rims: \$7/each;
- Without rims: \$5/each

Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Fall Recreation Activities catalog or at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation.

Youth

Basketball Stars (ages 3–4)—Focus on fundamentals and sportsmanship. Oct 19–Nov 16 (no class Nov 9), Davis, \$29.

Supper With Santa—Dec 8, 6–7:15 pm. Dinner, music, activities, and a photo opp with Santa. Children must be accompanied by an adult. \$12/person, children under age 1 are free.

Adult

Ballroom Dancing for Beginners—Sun, Oct 29–Nov 19, 4–5:30 pm, Davis, \$55/person.

Boot Camp—Burn calories and build endurance. Sun, Sept 17–Dec 10, 9–10 am (no class Oct 8, Nov 5 & 19) AND Thur, Sept 21–Dec 14, 6–7 pm (no class Oct 12, Nov 9 & 23). Davis, \$53/class.

Seniors

Living Wise and Well—“Pain Management: Minimize Your Pain Without Medication.” Oct 5, 2–3:15 pm, Calvary, free.

Holiday Tea—Entertainment, finger food, and desserts. Dec 11, 1–2:30 pm, Brookview, \$9.

Davis Community Center

Drop-in volleyball, basketball, pickleball and family gym time for all ages. Details at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/davis.

For more information or to register, call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.

Calling All Artists

Golden Valley Requests Artists' Submissions For Display In City Buildings

The City of Golden Valley is sending out a call for artists to submit their original work to be considered as part of the rotational art display at Brookview and Golden Valley City Hall.

Artwork on display in both buildings will be rotated every three months at the start of each new season (winter on Nov 30, spring on March 1, summer on May 31, and fall on Aug 30). The rotations will include opportunities to display both two- and three-dimensional pieces of art.

The City will send Requests For Art (RFA) to the art community and art facilitator groups twice a year. Art will be selected in advance for each term of the next year.

The artist must be local, the artwork itself must not be offensive or condescending to any race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, and the artwork must not be used to promote or oppose any political views.

The City is currently taking artist applications for the first and second rotation of art. The deadline to apply for the first two rotations is Sept 29, 2017. After that, applications will be reviewed and artists will be selected and notified in October.

To read the full list of criteria for this project and to print an application, go to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/about/public-art.

The City's rotational art project is part of its commitment to promoting and integrating arts, culture, and community aesthetic throughout Golden Valley, says Carrie Anderson, recreation supervisor.

For more information, contact Anderson at canderson@goldenvalleymn.gov.

First Exhibit Will Be Families Of Planet Earth

Golden Valley will be the first United States stop for the globally touring Families Of Planet Earth photo gallery.

Families Of Planet Earth is based on the award-winning book “1,000 Families” by Uwe Ommer, which documents the diversity of families from more than 150 countries. The photographs are designed to create awareness and understanding across cultures about what is different and similar in communities everywhere.

The outdoor/indoor exhibit has been displayed around the world and is coming to Brookview and City Hall courtesy of Golden Valley Arts leader David Berry. It will be on display Dec 1, 2017 through March 30, 2018 before moving on to other metro locations and a national tour.





*This year's Golden Valley
Arts & Music Festival
is Sept 16*

City/Foundation Partnership Benefits Community

Golden Valley is looking to up its cultural street cred, and a partnership between the City and the Golden Valley Community Foundation (GVCF) is helping pave the way.

At its Dec 20, 2016 meeting, the City Council authorized a Memorandum Of Understanding between the City and GVCF to outline a cooperative relationship that will benefit the community as a whole.

"Having the City and the Foundation working together where and when we can will enrich the community overall," says City Manager Tim Cruikshank.

Golden Valley Community Foundation

As a tax-exempt, non-profit, publicly supported, philanthropic organization, the GVCF's mission is to address the needs and interests of Golden Valley residents and neighbors, says John Kluchka, GVCF executive board member.

It provides a channel for individuals wanting to give back to the community or for those looking to fund a community project or event, he adds.

Current GVCF events and programs include Market In The Valley, the Golden Valley Arts & Music Festival, the Golden Valley Pride Festival, Evolve Program, Global Golden Valley, Golden Valley Arts, and more. For more information, go to gvcfoundation.org.

Progress Through Partnership

The Memorandum Of Understanding outlines specific details to guide a City/GVCF partnership to provide community opportunities that may otherwise be overlooked or unattainable.

For example, both the City and the GVCF want to enhance the community aesthetic with art in public spaces and events that entertain residents and visitors and promote Golden Valley. However, the City needs funding, and the private non-profit GVCF needs public spaces. The partnership enables Golden Valley to have events like Market In The Valley and the Golden Valley Arts & Music Festival as well as a new Public Art Policy in cost-effective ways (see page 15 for one such project).

With any Memorandum Of Understanding comes parameters to ensure legality of the agreement and to protect both parties from unforeseeable problems. The GVCF provides funding and volunteers, while the City provides in-kind services.

"I think the partnership brought leaders together and built relationships," Kluchka says. "It created a working connection for ideas and brainstorming about ways to build community that didn't necessarily require the City to spend taxpayer money to make it happen." 🌟



Market In The Valley (Sundays under the water tower)



*Golden Valley Arts selected images for
the City's new street banners.*



2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Crafting GV's Future Step By Step

It's updated every 10 years. It's expansive and painstakingly researched. It requires engagement from all corners of the community. So why even bother with a Comprehensive Plan?

As the writers of Golden Valley's 2040 Comprehensive Plan set out to anticipate and map the changes, challenges, and opportunities that arise in Golden Valley over the next 20 years, and as City officials delve further into the details of the eight planning chapters that cover everything from transportation to economic competitiveness, it's important to remember why the City goes through this process every 10 years.

"We want it to be an aspirational document," says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager. "We want it to be something that captures the hopes and vision of the residents and businesses in this community, something that sets out clear goals the City can strive for. We can't get there overnight, but when we have these goals on the horizon we can work toward, it helps guide us in the right direction."

The Comp Plan Promotes A Team Effort

One major benefit of the Comp Plan is that it helps get everyone—residents, businesses, elected officials, and City staff from all departments—on the same page.



"There would be a lot more ongoing disagreement about larger policy decisions if the plan wasn't laid out," Zimmerman says. "The long-term nature of the plan keeps the City on an even keel, even as elected officials and staff come and go."

Comprehensive plans ensure orderly growth and coordination with regional systems, which is why the Metropolitan Council requires all municipalities in the Twin Cities area to have one.

Comprehensive plans also bring everybody to the table to decide what's important, what's working well, and where things need improvement, Zimmerman says. Every 10 years, City staff and City Council, with the help of engaged citizens, collectively agree on a set of long-term goals with the commitment to move toward those goals as a team. The process includes:

- attending dozens of public input meetings and community conversations
- gathering and researching the most up-to-date demographic data and projections



- hearing and incorporating advice from all corners of the City and the surrounding region
- drafting numerous rewrites, revisions, and tweaks to the plan

You can't please everyone, Zimmerman says, but with such a widespread and inclusive feedback and revision process, all concerns and complaints are at least considered, and the City does the best it can to address them fairly.

Dream Big But Act Practically

The ideal approach to writing a Comprehensive Plan, Zimmerman says, is to start off dreaming as big as possible, work together to find out how those dreams could be broken into manageable components, and then develop realistic implementation strategies.

It's all about balance, he adds. If you set goals that are too general and ill-defined, you won't have a practical sense of how to go about achieving those goals. But if you're too specific in what you want for the City's future, that doesn't leave room for unforeseen changes in demographics, environment, and the overall aspirations of the community.

Eight Planning Chapters And Overall Themes

The Comprehensive Plan is divided into eight chapters: Community Profile, Land Use, Housing, Resilience & Sustainability,



Water Resources, Transportation, Parks and Natural Resources, and Economic Competitiveness. Each chapter attempts to build on themes and general goals that were prioritized in the citizen feedback process, such as:

- support a dynamic town center
- showcase Golden Valley as a “green” community by preserving parks and nature areas and embracing sustainability
- emphasize all aspects of a multi-modal transportation system
- ensure policies, procedures, and decisions are inclusive by supporting racial, cultural, and economic diversity and by accommodating the needs of an aging population
- make important investments in infrastructure

The Next Steps

The biggest challenge remaining, Zimmerman says, is to prioritize goals and feedback and create an implementation plan that balances needs, costs, and desires. A draft of the entire Comp Plan is expected to be ready for public review and comment in spring 2018.

To read the City's 2030 Comp Plan, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/comprehensiveplan.

To find out more about the 2040 Comp Plan, visit www.goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/comprehensiveplanupdate.



2040 Comprehensive Plan Citizen Input

Over the past year, more than 200–250 residents helped shape Golden Valley's future by sharing their ideas about the 2040 Comprehensive Plan by:

- attending a kick-off event, monthly Comprehensive Plan Conversation meetings, and meetings on select topics such as affordable housing and sustainability
- completing online questionnaires and mapping exercises
- participating in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning Task Force
- hosting Comp Plan In A Box meetings in groups and neighborhoods

Sign up for 2040 Comp Plan updates at www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe.

Social Media Is Here To Stay

Help Your Kids Stay Safe Online



Social media offers many benefits to today's youth. It lets them learn about local and global events, connects them to volunteer or creative programs, gives them a place to share their art, and helps them meet others who have similar interests. But at the same time, social media can be dangerous.

That's why parents need to become as social media savvy as their children, says Joanne Paul, crime analyst. The following tips will help parents keep their kids protected while online.

Get Up To Speed—Learn about all the social media programs your child uses and become as savvy at those programs as they are, otherwise you'll be in over your head when you try to understand the threats they may face online.

"Parents of a certain generation sometimes feel overwhelmed because kids often know more about this stuff than they do," Paul says. "However, they can't let that stop them from educating themselves. Take the time to know all the sites and how they work."

Preach Security Awareness—Teach kids to only accept friend requests from people they have met in the real world, then make sure they know about what to share and what not to share online.

It may be common sense to adults, but many kids may not think twice before sharing addresses, birthdates, phone numbers, and even social security or bank account numbers, among other personal information. Certain (even seemingly innocuous) information could help lead predators to your door, or give a cybercriminal enough knowledge to steal an identity or pose as a friend or family member in order to pull off a scam.

Customize Privacy Settings—Don't rely on social media's default privacy setting, which frequently allow anyone to see your pages. It opens the door for predators or cybercriminals to use photos and information kids share to track them down in real life. Set all privacy options so only friends and family members can see the pages.

Watch For Misuse—Remember that cyberbullying is now one of the most common forms of bullying. Ask your kids if anything distressing is happening to them online, and also make sure they aren't bullying someone themselves. It can go both ways and lead to devastating emotional consequences if left unchecked.

Set An Example—Be open and honest about your own social media use. If you want your kids to be honest with you about their use, show them the same respect in return.

Be Available—Let your children know they can turn to you for help if they're ever unsure about something online, are worried, or feel threatened.

"Parents need to accept that social media is here to stay and it's important to kids," Paul says. "For my generation, it was talking on the phone to friends. This generation connects online."



Change In Law Increases Penalties For School Bus Stop Arm Violations

According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, children are much safer riding the bus to school than taking any other vehicle. However, they're still at risk, especially when entering or exiting the bus.

Multiple traffic laws are on the books to help protect children in these situations. School bus stop arm regulations are one example. Whether approaching from behind or from the opposite direction, motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and/or has its stop arm extended. Failure to do so results in a citation and fine. State law

changed this summer to increase that fine from \$300 to \$500.

Even if a police officer is not present on the scene, a school bus driver can report motorists who disobey the stop signs. Motorists are not required to stop for a bus if the bus is on the opposite side of a separated roadway (a road separated from a parallel road by a safety isle or zone), but they should always remain alert for children. For complete information, see MN Statute 169.444.



Fire Safety In Two Messages

The Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) urges Golden Valley residents to keep themselves and their houses safe by heeding two directives—close your door, and know two ways out.

Close Your Door

The Close Your Door campaign stems from more than 10 years of research by the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute (FSRI), after proving that a closed door could potentially save lives in a fire.

Today's fires are much more dangerous than they were 40 years ago, according to FSRI research.

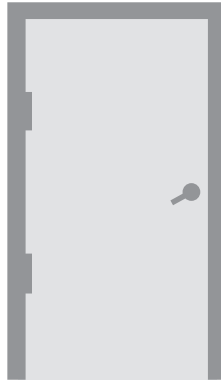
Due to synthetic materials used in furniture and other household items, fires spread more than five times faster on average and become toxic more quickly.

By keeping your utility room door closed whenever possible, you can slow down and even cut off oxygen flow and slow the spread of a potential furnace fire.

GVFD Battalion Chief Steve Baker says you should keep more than just your utility room door closed.

"Everyone should sleep with their bedroom doors closed, and really, with every interior door closed," he says. "It'll slow the spread and growth of a fire, and I can't say it enough, because it's really that simple. Just close your doors."

For more information on the Close Your Door campaign, visit www.closeyourdoor.org.



Two Ways Out

In a fire, seconds can mean the difference between escaping safely or having lives end in tragedy. This year's Fire Prevention Week theme reinforces why everyone needs to have an escape plan.

To start, sit down with all members of your household and draw a map of your home. Mark two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.



Practice your home fire drill twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out. Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.

Close doors behind you as you leave—this will slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.

Get out and stay out. Never go back inside a burning building.

Make sure your house number is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.

For more information about the Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out campaign, visit www.nfpa.org/public-education/campaigns/fire-prevention-week.

Want To Give Back? Become a Firefighter



The Golden Valley Fire Department is looking for paid, on-call firefighters to serve their community.

Tom Bloxsom, 54, has been with the GVFD since 2015 and enjoys every minute of it.

"I like being around and working as a team with others who are in the same frame of mind, to help people, and be ready," he says. "It's serious work but you have fun and you make friendships."

He encourages others who are interested in community service to consider becoming paid, on-call firefighters.

Check us out at
www.goldenvalleyfire.com

City Sprouts 20 Little Libraries

Residents' Initiative Benefits Community

What started as monthly crafting night turned into something much bigger and more meaningful for a few Golden Valley residents.

Michelle Christensen has lived in Golden Valley for more than 20 years. She and three friends wanted a project they could work on together to keep them close now that their children are growing up, so they decided to meet once a month at rotating houses to build Little Libraries.

Take A Book, Leave A Book

Little Libraries are free book exchanges. They come in many shapes and sizes but are commonly seen as a small wooden box, according to the Little Free Library nonprofit organization.

Christensen works for a general contractor and had connections with multiple vendors that could supply her with the wood, tempered glass, posts, and anything else she would need. After explaining her plan, she was able to secure free materials to build four Little Libraries.

After a few craft nights, the four boxes were practically complete. But that was just the beginning.

During a trip to Home Depot to purchase some finishing materials, Christensen explained her project to an employee and he convinced her to expand the project with the help of the store and its staff. Christensen then turned to Facebook to do a little bit of promoting and quickly convinced 20 friends to join in. Soon enough, 20 new boxes were completed.

To her surprise, not long afterwards there was a used book sale at the Golden Valley Library. Using donated money, Christensen was able to fill each of the new boxes by purchasing 20 paper bags of books at \$5 a bag.



Little Libraries in Brookview and Hampshire Parks

On July 18, the boxes officially became Little Libraries when they were installed in six parks—Brookview, Yosemite, Seeman, Hampshire, Gearty, and Stockman—and at multiple private residences around town.

Pay It Forward

Christensen says there are no exact rules for the Little Libraries. She just wants those who use them to be respectful.

“Just do the good and right thing,” she says. “If that means to shut the door when you see it open, then shut the door. If you have some books you want to put in there when it’s looking empty, put some books in there.”

The next step is to register the boxes with the Little Free Library organization, but that is coming very soon, says Christensen. If you want to see how many other Little Libraries are in the area or even in the country, go to www.littlefreelibrary.org.

New Online Utility Bill Pay System Debuts Oct 9

Starting Oct 9, 2017, the City of Golden Valley will implement a new online electronic utility billing and payment service. Residents will be able to:

- receive and view bills electronically and make payments online with a credit/debit card or bank account
- pay anytime, anywhere, including by cell phone
- register for an account to enjoy 24/7 access to payment history and bills

- view bills and make one-time payments without registering
- schedule payments or enroll to automatically pay bills from a default payment method on the due date
- set up a schedule to pay a fixed amount or the invoice balance on a specific day of the month

All financial information will be stored using Payment Card Industry (PCI)

compliant systems, the highest level of Internet security.

Customers who were previously signed up for paperless billing will need to re-register in the new system. The City will no longer offer \$1 off bills for customers signed up for automatic ACH payments.

More details will be provided in your upcoming utility bill.



New Multi-Use Amenities Coming To Schaper Park

A first-of-its-kind outdoor fitness challenge course is coming to Golden Valley, along with a new all-inclusive play structure. Both will be located at Schaper Park, 631 Ottawa Ave N.

The Schaper Challenge Course is meant to promote wellness, fitness, and health through active multi-generational family recreation. It's the first challenge course in Minnesota with these specific goals in mind, says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director.

The all-inclusive play structure is designed to meet the needs of kids and families of every ability level.

"Both provide innovative options for families of every ability and fitness level to take the challenge and complete the course together, to make fitness fun," says Birno.

Upon completion of the challenge, users will be encouraged to share their accomplishment by taking a selfie in front of the permanent challenge course wall.

The project will be ready to open Sept 9, thanks to a partnership between the City, Three Rivers Parks District, MN/WI Play-ground, Paul's Pals, Golden Valley Rotary Club, and the Golden Valley Community Foundation. 🌿

Schaper Challenge Course Grand Opening

Sat, Sept 9, 11:30 am–1 pm

Schaper Park, 631 Ottawa Ave N

Enjoy refreshments and activities while exploring our newest recreation facility.

Bring a stuffed teddy bear to donate for use by the Golden Valley Police Department and other non-profit organizations that support youth/children in the Golden Valley area (see page 15).

Eagle Scout Builds Ballfield Shed

Antonio Suarez spent most of his summer organizing and leading a volunteer effort to replace a dilapidated baseball equipment shed at Seeman Park. The shed construction was part of his capstone Eagle Scout project, a required community service activity that is the last stop on the road to achieving the highest Boy Scout rank.

Like several Eagle Scouts before him, Suarez turned to the City for ideas for his community project and learned of the need for the new shed. The City offered a design idea, some specifications and tools, and the materials. It was up to Suarez to actually finish the design plans and build the structure.

With the help of his parents, Jennifer and Eduardo, Suarez then spent several days building the shed in their driveway. Nine other Boy Scouts pitched in. By the time Suarez delivered the shed to the park, the group had put in a collective 90 hours of volunteer time.



Because Eagle Scout projects must benefit the community as a whole and require assistance from several other people, they give scouts a chance to demonstrate leadership skills. Suarez says he had to learn some of these skills on the fly, like figuring out when to let volunteers work on their own and when to get more involved.

"I didn't want to micromanage," he says. "I also learned things don't always go according to plan. We expected to

get this project done in about a weekend. It took a little over two weeks."

The City of Golden Valley regularly supports projects with the Boy and Girl Scouts to promote healthy lifestyles and park improvements. In 2015 and 2016, four Eagle Scout projects were completed in Golden Valley, including new bike racks at Wesley Park, a tree identification system at SEA School, a new stairway on Brookview Golf Course, and a new rebound tennis board at Brookview Park. 🌿

10th Ave Culvert Project Under Way

At the end of August, crews began replacing the aging metal culverts that carry Bassett Creek under 10th Ave and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. Substantial completion of the project is expected in mid November.

Detoured traffic will use Golden Valley Rd and Winnetka Ave. Full access to the Hennepin County Library is available from Winnetka Ave. The Luce Line Trail is also closed during the project, and trail users will follow the same detour as vehicles.

The railroad will remain operational during the work, but to facilitate construction, the contractor will be allowed to work around the clock during two scheduled weekend rail outages. The 24-hour work windows will begin at 7 am on Friday morning and must be completed by 10 pm on Sunday evening. The first rail outage will be in early October and the second in mid-to late October. Watch the City website for specific dates and updates. Schedules are subject to change due to weather.

The project involves digging up 10th Ave (between the Golden Valley Library and the end of Rhode Island Ave N), the Luce Line Trail, and the railroad track to replace the existing culverts with two concrete box culverts.

The City has communicated with Union Pacific since 2008 regarding inspection results and the potential impacts of culvert failure, which include flooding and train derailment. The two arch culverts (114-inch span) and one round culvert (72-inch diameter), classified as bridges because of their size, were inspected annually and recently showed rapid deterioration.

If you have questions about this project, contact the City at 763-539-8030 Monday through Friday between 8 am and 4:30 pm. For emergencies after hours and weekends, contact the Police Department front desk at 763-593-8079. The Police Department will contact appropriate City staff. 📞



Douglas Drive Project Progresses

Despite heavy rains in August, work on Douglas Drive has made significant progress along two key road segments.

Medicine Lake Rd To Duluth St

The road between Medicine Lake Rd (CR 70) to Duluth St (CR 66) is largely complete and already

demonstrates many of the features of this project, including:

- stronger, smoother road surfaces
- wider curbs to accommodate bicycle traffic
- sidewalks or bicycle and pedestrian trails along both sides
- improved streetscapes with new street lighting/landscaping

Duluth St To Golden Valley Rd

Between Duluth St (CR 66) and Golden Valley Rd, new driveways, curbs, and gutters are done and the first two layers of asphalt have been paved.

In mid-September, the Canadian Pacific railroad crossing will be replaced. This work will temporarily close access for local traffic. In the coming weeks, crews will also install new street light fixtures, pave remaining trails, pour sidewalks, and landscape boulevards.

It is anticipated this segment will reopen in October, after final paving and permanent road striping are completed.

Golden Valley Road Intersection

The new roundabout at the Golden Valley Rd intersection is taking shape. Crews have graded the new roadway and poured medians, curbs, and gutters.

Next, crews will pave trails, pour sidewalks, and pave the first two layers of asphalt between Florida Ave and the Union Pacific railroad. Once these pavement layers are down, eastbound and westbound lanes on Golden Valley Rd will open to traffic.

The final layer of asphalt is expected to be paved in early October, weather permitting.

Permanent road striping will follow to complete the roundabout construction in mid-October. South of the roundabout, Douglas Dr will remain closed as crews continue work toward Hwy 55.

Detours and Project Information

To get updates on schedules, detours, and construction activities, go to the project website at www.hennepin.us/douglasdrive or call the project hotline at 612-543-3485. 📞

UPCOMING events

PHOTO BY MARY LOU ADAMS, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 2017

Market In The Valley

Sundays through Oct 1 | 9 am–1 pm

Outdoor farmers market under the water tower. More information at www.marketinthevalley.org.

Teddy Bear Drive

Sept 5–8 | City Hall & GVPD

National Teddy Bear Day is Sept 9. Donate a new teddy bear for use by the GVPD and other non-profit organizations that support youth in the Golden Valley area. Drop off at City Hall, the GVPD, or at the Schaper Grand Opening (see page 13). Questions? Call 763-593-8006.

Schaper Challenge Course Grand Opening

Sat, Sept 9 | 11:30 am–1 pm (see page 13)

Coffee With A Cop

Thur, Sept 14 | 8:30–10 am

Byerly's, 5725 Duluth St

Drop by for a cup of coffee and conversation with Golden Valley police officers.

Fri, Sept 29 | 8:30–10 am

GVPD, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Celebrate International Coffee Day by sharing coffee and conversation with Golden Valley police officers.

GOLDEN VALLEY ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sat, Sept 16 | 9:30 am–9:30 pm

City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd

Community festival featuring a parade, artisans, food, craft beer, and music. More information at gvcfoundation.org.

HRC Conversations: PTSD Documentary

Thur, Sept 21 | 6:30 pm

Cinema Grill, 2749 Winnetka Ave N, New Hope

The film "Buried Above Ground" shares stories of people living with and battling post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Co-sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the Crystal-New Hope League of Women Voters. More information www.golden-valleymn.gov/boards/humanrights/hrc-conversations.php.

Neighborhood Watch Community Meeting

Tue, Oct 3 | 7 pm

Police Department Training Room

Topics cover current crime trends and ways to keep your neighborhood safe.

MIGHTY TIDY DAY

Sat, Oct 7 | 8 am–1 pm (see page 5)

Fall Raking Blitz

Mid-October until the snow stays (see page 4)

Annual Leaf Drop-Off

Three Oct & Nov weekends (see page 4)

City Election

Tue, Nov 7 (see page 16)

BROOKVIEW GRAND OPENING

Fri, Dec 1 | 6–10 pm

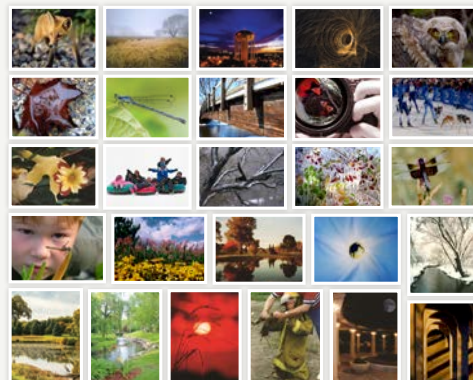
Celebrate the new Brookview with tours, activities, music, refreshments, and more. Details in the Nov/Dec *CityNews*.

25 YEARS IN THE VALLEY: THE GOLDEN VALLEY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Sat, Sept 16 | 9:30 am–9:30 pm

Golden Valley Arts & Music Festival

Since the City of Golden Valley introduced its first *Views of the Valley* photo competition in 1993, hundreds of residents have shared their passion for their community through photographs. To mark the contest's 25th anniversary, the City is partnering with Golden Valley Arts (GVA) to present "25 Years In The Valley," a gallery exhibit highlighting 25 winning photos over the years, as selected by the GVA Public Arts panel. After its debut at the Sept 16 Golden Valley Arts & Music Festival, the exhibit will be available for display at other locations upon request. GVA is a program of the Golden Valley Community Foundation (see page 7). Get more information at gvcfoundation.org/gvarts.





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ELECTION DAY VOTE IN YOUR PRECINCT

- ★ **PRECINCT 1:**
NE Fire Station
3700 Golden Valley Rd
- ★ **PRECINCT 2:**
Valley Presbyterian Church
3100 North Lilac Dr
- ★ **PRECINCT 3:**
Meadowbrook School
5430 Glenwood Ave
- ★ **PRECINCT 4:**
LOGIS
5750 Duluth St
- ★ **PRECINCT 5:**
SE Fire Station
400 Turners Crossroad S
- ★ **PRECINCT 6:**
Golden Valley City Hall
7800 Golden Valley Rd
- ★ **PRECINCT 7:**
Sandburg Middle School
2400 Sandburg Lane
- ★ **PRECINCT 8:**
Brookview Community Center
200 Brookview Parkway

For 2017 the City election day is Nov 7.
Polls are open 7 am–8 pm.


FIVE FILE FOR TWO CITY COUNCIL SEATS

Five Golden Valley residents have filed to run for two Golden Valley City Council seats for the Nov 7 election.

The four-year terms of Council members Larry Fonnest and Andy Snope are up Dec 31, 2017. Only one is running for re-election.

Larry Fonnest, John Giese, Gillian Rosenquist, Jim Ryan, and Andy Schuler are candidates for the two Council seats.

More information about the candidates is available on the Minnesota Secretary of State website at <http://candidates.sos.state.mn.us>.

For more information about the election, see the article on page 3 or click to www.goldenvalleymn.gov/elections. Official election results will be posted on the Minnesota Secretary of State website (www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/election-results) as they become available. Questions? Contact City Clerk Kris Luedke at 763-593-8012. 

CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

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John Giese
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Gillian Rosenquist
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Golden Valley, MN 55422
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Jim Ryan
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763-232-7311

Andy Schuler
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Golden Valley, MN 55422
763-670-9253



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This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

